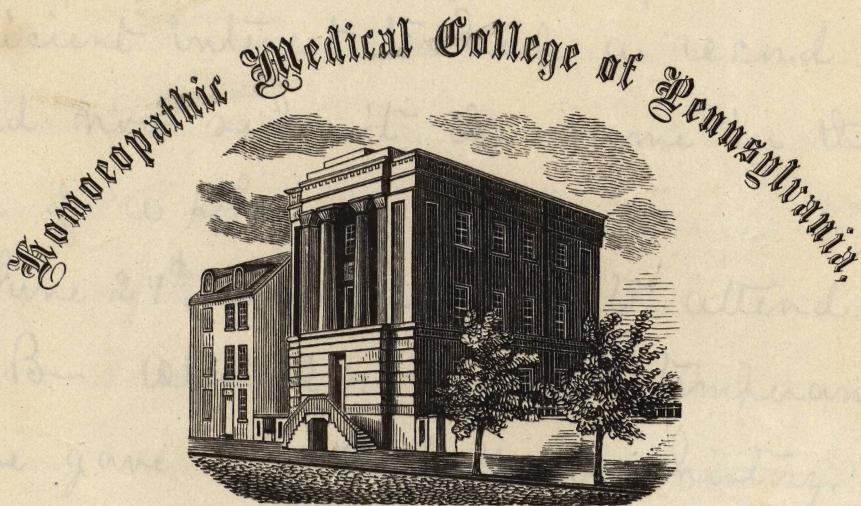


a Case from Practice

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

of the



FOR

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

BY

William R. Childs

Philadelphia, February 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

~ Case from Practice ~

And in June last my preceptor - Dr L. P. Daké - being called away from home, left me in charge of his practice.

Among many other cases I was called upon to treat, the following I deemed of sufficient interest to keep a record of; and now submit the same in the shape of a thesis. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Balti-

June 29<sup>th</sup>, was called in to attend Lent B - At 23. Sanguine temperament; he gave me the following history.

Last March, when in camp near Washington City, had an attack of "measles," the rash appearing on face, body and extremities, after it had been out about three days, he was exposed to bad weather, causing the eruption to subside, followed by severe cough

And expectoration of bloody mucus;  
was under treatment for this about two  
weeks. In the month of April contrac-  
ted "Pox" from some of his mess mat-  
es, repelled the eruption with Mucu-  
rial ointments. Has very much ex-  
posed while lying with his Regiment  
before Yorktown. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at battle  
of Williamsburg, he was injured by com-  
munication of, or close passage of, a Cannon  
ball or shell; had diarrhoea and chills  
for three weeks subsequent, took Min-  
cury and Opium; also a gill of Ehis-  
ley and one grain of Quinine, <sup>three times</sup> daily; the  
Regiment still continuing on the march,  
he would not remain behind at the  
Hospital. May 8<sup>th</sup> they went into the  
engagement at "Fair Oaks"; then run-

orders were, "fall flat upon the ground at the appearance of shell": while lying in this position a shell struck about twenty or thirty yards in front ricochetted over him, carrying off his cap, and tearing his gum blanket and coat from off his back: he was carried to the rear by some soldiers, where after lying in an insensible state for an hour or two he gradually returned to his senses, was taken to the hospital and examined, his left side and back was found to be very badly bruised: this appearance extending across the left side of the abdomen: (the crystal and works of his watch ~~coming~~ were completely shattered, and lay loose within the case.) he was pronounced

ced injured internally. In company with many others was placed on board a vessel and sent to New York City; the treatment he there received, was external frictions, cathartics, and Belladonna plaster applied to side for a week; after which time he regained the use of his left side, arm and leg, which had been paralyzed for some time.—8 or 10 days he thinks.—The latter part of June obtained leave of absence to visit his family in Pittsburg: was there treated allopathically for nervousness, feverishness at night, and loss of sleep; took tincture of Valerian and blue pills, four times daily, with Morphia pill at bed time. Becoming tired of this system of drugging, and finding himself no better, he dropped

all treatment for two weeks; at the end  
of which time I was called upon to  
take charge of the case.

I found him very nervous -  
every noise, or movement in the room  
causing him to start - difficulty in  
fixing his attention, could not concen-  
trate his thoughts upon any one subject  
but for a short time, as it gave him  
intense pain all through his head -  
mind wandering - slightly at times -  
particularly at night - sleep short and  
dreamy, unrefreshing - giddiness when in  
erect posture - tinnitus aurium - pain  
down the spine - and stinging pain over  
back as if struck by a bundle of  
switches, and presenting that appear-  
ance - dull pain in left hypochondriac

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Region - Abdomen swollen, hard -  
Bowels constipated, flatulence - Appetite  
fair, except for acids - saltish taste -  
Tooth created - sweat at night, during  
sleep - feverish in afternoon and evening -  
Thirst - pulse strong and frequent -

Gave "Acnitic" 3- and "Belladonna" 3- alternate-  
ly in evolution, (All the medicines used  
were prepared on the decimal scale)  
dose, a tea-spoonful every two hours.

Diet - toast, rice, or barley water, with  
oatmeal gruel; avoiding all kinds of  
excitement, such as company, papers  
containing war news &c.

Third day. Less fever, pain in hypochondrium -  
diuum better, mouth not so dry - still  
complains of head, and aching pain in  
back - last two nights very restless, talks

of battles - becomes much excited - tongue  
feels stiff and too large for mouth - can't  
talk without stuttering - continued Acu-  
to's and gave "Cyniamus" in place of  
"Belladonna" - diet same as before. -

Fifth day. Slight improvement generally -  
feels low spirited, thinks he will never  
get well. Same remedies. dose three  
hours apart

Seventh day. Spirits very low, don't want  
to take any medicine. pulse 80 hard,  
irregular. - tongue coated yellowish -  
sores taste - pain in bowels - bubbling -  
mus - still constipated - internal heat,  
external chills - sweat in morning  
early - "Tax. somnica". S. in solution. "Araen-  
icum" S. tit. in powder every two hours  
alternately - to lengthen intervals to three

hours on improvement.

Thirteenth day. Has been gradually improving every day since I last saw him. in better spirits - pains in back, sides, and bowels very slight at times. bowels regular. head clearer - no ringing in ears - sleep better, but still disturbed - some fever in afternoon - sweat at night towards morning. "Arsenicum" 6<sup>th</sup> trit. in powders. one every four hours. diet Beef-tea and peas for dinner, light custard in morning and at night. in ~~Eczema~~

Seventeenth day. Still improving. able to come down stairs to meals. "Arsenicum" 6<sup>th</sup> trit. continued. a powder from time daily - allow him a more generous diet. Meat once a day, at dinner, morning and evening meal light.

Exercise in open air. He was sent for on  
twenty first day: on 18<sup>th</sup> had ridden out,  
spent the day with a friend, drank wine  
and smoked a cigar; came home very  
much exhausted - passed a sleepless  
night - felt feverish, had headache and  
pain in back all next day; last night  
noticed a roughness of his skin, with  
tingling and creeping sensation - this  
morning has an eruption on body, arms  
and thighs, worse on back - small white  
vesicles very close together, of an Eczema-  
tous nature, produced by over exertion  
and heating of the blood - I presume -  
Gave "Belladonna" & and "Rhus Tox".<sup>each</sup>  
alternately in solution - a teaspoonful  
every three hours. Under the action of  
these medicines he improved so much

that he reported, by letter, for duty, & has  
ordered to Philadelphia: he passed out  
of my hands in quite a good condition,  
just four weeks from the time I first  
saw him. On his arrival in Philad<sup>e</sup>  
he put on the recruiting service; he had  
been here but two weeks, when he was laid  
up again, from imprudent exposure,  
and use of stimulants. He was taken to  
the — — U.S Hospital; an eruptive ma-  
king its appearance, he was told by  
the very learned doctors in charge, that  
he had a very peculiar diseased  
condition of the blood and liver, and  
unless properly treated it would run  
into syphilis: they at once put him on  
the use of Iodide of Potassium with the  
Bi chlride of Mercury. Not liking

this kind of treatment, he obtained a  
Surgeon's certificate of sickness and  
returned home.

It was about a month after he  
had passed out of my hands, that  
he sent for me again. I found him  
with an eruption on upper and lower  
extremities, and partly on body; the  
parts most affected were his shoulders,  
elbows, mates, sacrum and knees,  
extending down outer sides of legs: at  
these points the vesicles had become  
confluent, and cracked open on move-  
ment, causing a discharge of ichorous  
matter. Gave Nitric Acid 1<sup>st</sup> from drops  
in Tablespoonful of water, four times the  
day, this he used for three days. I  
then gave him "Dulphin" 3<sup>rd</sup> bit. in powder

and "Rhus" 3- in solution, every four hours alternately; ordering him to bathe with hot water and Brecknells Skin Drap, in the morning, and tepid water alone at night: this course he continued for eight days, at which time there appearing but little amelioration, and no softening of the scabs: I prepared him some Sulphur ointment - 1 part Sulphur and 3 parts Lead - to use, and gave internally "Dulcamara" 3. and "Hepar Sulfuris" 6<sup>d</sup> alternately, from times daily, this he continued to use with much benefit for about three weeks, at the end of which time they appeared to me to have ceased acting. I gave then "Belladonna" 3. and "Mercurius Corrosivus" 6. 2 powders daily, still continuing

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the use of the Sulphur ointment.

These Medicines he was using when  
I left Pittsburg for the Lectures Oct 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup>.

I next saw him the middle of  
November, he was still using the same  
remedies: at that time, the only places  
that had not entirely healed was on  
one wrist, and over the right Tibia.

I saw him last, about the first  
of January he was entirely well - said  
he had never before enjoyed as good  
health as then.